

### **ABSTRACT**

An occupant protection device for motor vehicles, having an unfoldable protection element which, when unfolded, forms a curtain for the protection of vehicle occupants, in particular in the head/chest region. A tensioning strap is provided which, when the protection element is unfolded, is tensioned between a first vehicle point and a second vehicle point and in the process forms an obstacle against which the unfolded protection element is supported by means of its outwardly directed rear side.